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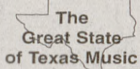
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Attention Seniors Graduating in May English 210 & 301 (Tech Writing) Force Dates for Spring 2000 Wednesday, December 8 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Tuesday, January 18 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1. Make sure you have the correct prerequisite (English 104 or equivalent). 2. Come to Blocker 224 during the force dates and times listed above. 3. Bring a letter on department stationery from your academic advisor stating that you are graduating in the semester for which you are registering. No forces will be done during pre-registration. You must come in during these dates to get a seat. If you can't make these dates, send a representative with your letter and a list of preferred times. Forcing Information line: 862-7724 Web site: http://engserve.tamu.edu/files/writingprograms/rulesforforcing.html

Lenny takes unusual course

Hurricane travels west-to-east, threatens Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Packing 100 mph winds and torrential rains, Hurricane Lenny careened past the Dominican Republic yesterday on a rare west-to-east course aimed directly at Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Residents who had hoped the storm season was waning were instead rushing to grocery stores to stock up on water, crackers and canned tuna.

People piled up furniture in their homes as officials warned serious flooding was possible. "I'm worried about this one," Idelisa Ramos said, while three hardware store employees struggled to mount a new 600-gallon water tank on top of her minivan in Bayamon. "It's such a strange storm, it can't be up to any good."

Lenny was 300 miles southwest of San Juan on yesterday afternoon, moving east at 16 mph.

Hurricane winds extended 50 miles from the center and tropical storm-force winds another 145 miles.

The storm was expected to turn increasingly northeast and hit Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands on Wednesday morning.

Its outer bands were already bringing torrential rain and dangerous, battering waves into nearshore waters off Puerto Rico's southeast coast, the U.S. National Weather Service said.

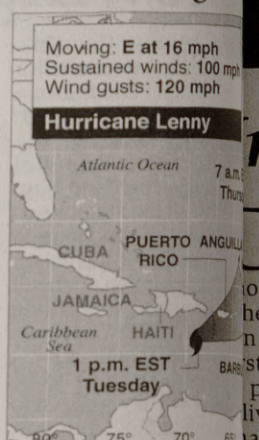
Officials in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands warned the storm could dump up to 15 inches of rain, raising fears of deadly landslides and flash floods in areas already saturated by more than a week of rain.

The islands barely escaped Hurricane Jose last month.

"We're very concerned," Max Mayfield, deputy director of the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, said.

A hurricane warning also was in effect for the British Virgin Islands.

Officials issued hurricane watches and tropical storm warnings for Dutch St. Maarten, St. Eustatius,



Source: AccuWeather

Israel, Palestinians deadlock over withdrawal

JERUSALEM (AP) — In what began as a minor tiff but turned into a full-blown dispute, Israelis and Palestinians were deadlocked yesterday over who should decide what land Israel hands over.

A top U.S. envoy was unable to settle the argument.

Israel said its exclusive right to sketch West Bank withdrawal maps was anchored in earlier peace accords. The Palestinians disputed that, saying they had to be consulted.

"No one has the right to impose maps on us," Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday.

The argument's outcome could have far-reaching effects.

It could determine the scope of two more partial West Bank withdrawals Israel has to carry ahead of the final peace accord set for September 2000.

It also could shape the negotiations on the final sta-

tus of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Saeb Erekat, senior Palestinian negotiator, said.

"Israel is trying to create a precedent for the phase and for the final status talks, that the map phase and that the Palestinians should agree to it," Erekat said.

Meeting with President Clinton's Middle East troubleshooter, Dennis Ross, in the West Bank town of Jericho, Erekat said.

Later Ross met in the evening with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who said he would meet with President Clinton's Middle East troubleshooter, Dennis Ross, in the West Bank town of Jericho, Erekat said.

The envoy came to the region as part of a series of talks that began last week and were expected to continue through the end of the month.

Ross is to visit the Middle East every two weeks until February to monitor the talks and report to Clinton.

"No one has the right to impose maps on us."

— Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leader

First female public execution draws crowd

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — In a stadium packed with thousands of onlookers, a woman dressed in an all-enveloping burqa was shot to death yesterday in the first public execution of a woman since Afghanistan's Taliban rulers took control three years ago.

The woman, who was identified only as Zareena, a mother of seven children, was convicted of beating her husband to death with a steel hammer as he slept.

A Taliban soldier said the reason for the slaying two years ago was a "family dispute."

Zareena was brought to the sports stadium in the back of a pickup truck dressed in a pale blue burqa, or bulky Islamic cloak that covered her from head to toe.

Two female police officers, dressed in deep blue burqas, held her arms.

Witnesses said she walked slowly to the center of the field, each step followed by a pause, and was ordered to sit.

A young Taliban soldier, his head wrapped in the traditional turban, stood behind her and took aim with his Kalashnikov rifle.

Suddenly Zareena stood up and

tried to flee, but was stopped by police officers, who forced her to sit down again. The soldier stepped closer and shot her three times.

After the killing, shouts of "God is great!" were heard from the stadium, which was packed with men and women, many of whom had brought their children.

One woman in a burqa was running quickly toward the stadium seats pushing her children ahead of her, shouting "I want to see."

Radio Shariat had announced the execution on Monday.

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